

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAB-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 /066 W

----- 090684

O R 251500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6027

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1748

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS VIEWS ISRAEL-US RELATIONS FOLLOWING
SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. MAR 25 PRESS CONTINUES TO WRITE ABOUT FUTURE OF US-ISRAELI
RELATIONS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF PEACE TALKS AND IN
LIGHT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY USG OFFICIALS RE REASSESSMENT
OF US MID EAST POLICY. IT IS GENERALLY
EXPECTED THAT SOME TENSION IN RELATIONS COULD RESULT AND THAT
IN ORDER TO PREVENT A SERIOUS EROSION ISRAEL MUST MOBILIZE
ALL ITS INFLUENCE IN THE US.

2. DAVAR (ESHED) REPORTS IN FRONTPAGE STORY THAT PRESIDENT
FORD SENT TWO MESSAGES TO PM RABIN. "THE SECOND MESSAGE,
SENT ON SATURDAY, ALSO CONTAINED SEVERE AND UNPOLISHED
EXPRESSIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED ANXIETY IN JERUSALEM, BUT COULD
NOT CHANGE THE INEVITABLE ISRAELI DECISION. DELIBERATIONS
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AND CONCLUSIONS OF US NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL... RE

THE ME ARE AWAITED IN JERUSALEM, WHERE IT IS HOPED THAT
INSPITE OF THE UNDERSTANDABLE DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE
FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION... THE PRESIDENT WON'T RUSH
TO CONCLUSIONS AND THAT NO CRISIS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
WILL TAKE PLACE... JERUSALEM IS PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY
OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE NEED FOR AN
URGENT INFO CAMPAIGN TO MOBILIZE AMERICAN PUBLIC
OPINION..."

3. HAARETZ (GOLAN) REPORTS THAT "CONCULTATIONS ARE CON-
TINUING IN JERUSALEM RE THE NEXT POLITICAL STEPS
AND THE ISRAELI INFO CAMPAIGN. IT IS GENERALLY
NOT BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER WILL BLAME ONE OF THE SIDES
FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS, BUT THERE IS A FEAR THAT
THE AMERICAN SECRETARY WILL REPEAT HIS EVALUATION THAT
ISRAEL HAS SHOWN 'SHORTSIGHTEDNESS'. THIS EVALUATION IS
TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN JERUSALEM BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REFLECT
THE READINESS PROVIED BY ISRAEL DURING THE TALKS... SENIOR
ELEMENTS SAID YESTERDAY, UNOFFICIALLY, THAT SUCH DECLARATIONS
BY KISSINGER DAMAGE HIS ABILITY TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE
SIDES IN FUTURE..." HAARETZ (IN A COMMENTARY BY MARCUS)
ALSO PREDICTS THAT "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE
A PERIOD OF CONSIDERABLE TENSION AND PRESSURES ON US: THESE
PRESSURES ARE NOT ENTIRELY CONNECTED WITH THE QUESTION OF
WHETHER WE ARE RIGHT OR NOT BUT WITH THE PROCESS OF THE
DECLINE OF THE WEST. WE SHALL HAVE TO MOBILIZE AMERICAN
JEWRY-- STILL A TREMENDOUS POWER-- AND TO EXPLAIN TO THE
AMERICANS THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND CAMBODIA..."

4. PRESS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS STATEMENTS BY USG OFFICIALS
THAT US ME POLICY WILL BE REASSESSED AND THAT "A CERTAIN
REDUCTION IN AID TO ISRAEL MAY BE CONSIDERED." JERUSALEM
POST AND AL-HAMISHMAR (BLITZER) REPORT THAT STATEMENT BY
PRESIDENT FORD RE REEVALUATION OF US ME POLICY
TOOK ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON BY SURPRISE. "RABIN
AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPPLY
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MESSAGE (SENT BY PRESIDENT FORD TO
PM RABIN LAST THURSDAY), BUT WASHINGTON'S OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE-
MENT YESTERDAY APPEARED TO CONFIRM ISRAEL'S WORST FEARS
RE A POSSIBLE HARDENING IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS..."
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BLITZER CONTINUES THAT "ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON...
ADMITTED THAT AMERICA'S OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WERD NOT 'VERY
NICE.' THEY COULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE REASONS
FOR THE, INSISTING THAT THEY WERE SURPRISED..."
DAVAR (BARNEA) STORY ALSO REPORTS ON USG STATEMENTS AND STRESSES
THAT THEY "REFLECT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL... TO WITHDRAW FROM
POSITIONS IT HAS ADOPTED DURING THE TALKS. SEVERAL OF
THE PARTICIPATNTS AT THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE INTENTNION OF THE PRESSURE IS
TO CREATE A BACKGROUND FOR INVITING KISSINGER AGAIN TO THE ME..."

5. YEDIOT (GUNEY) DESCRIBES STATEMENT MADE BY KISSINGER
AND STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN RE US ME POLICY AS "A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT."
" IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT AID TO ISRAEL-- AND TO
EGYPT-- WILL BE CUT. SUCH A STEP WILL BE TOO EXTREME....BUT
IS IS CERTAINLY A SIGN THAT IF THE ADMINISTRATION
HAD THUS FAR PLANNED TO PROPOSE TO CONGRESS
APPROVAL OF A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE DOLS 2.5 BILLION AID
REQUESTED BY ISRAEL... IT WILL NOW PROPOSE A SMALLER SUM...
THE INTERPRETATION OF THE REASSESSMENT MAY ALSO MEAN THAT
CERTAIN TYPES OF MODERN WEAPONS PROMISED TO ISRAEL WON'T
BE DELIVERED, OR PERHAPS WILL BE DELAYED. IT MA ALSO MEAN THAT
AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN GENEVA WILL BE REDUCED... IT
IS POSSIBLE THEREFORE THAT THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S
MESSAGE TO PM RABIN WAS LESS SERIOUS THAN THE PRESS HAS
REPORTED: BUT THE WARNING IT CONTAINED VERY SERIOUS
AND WE ARE ENTERING A PERIOD OF TENSION IN ISRAEL-
AMERICAN RELATIONS..."

6. MAARIV EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE STATEMENTS: " ONE
THING MUST BE CLEAR TO AMERICAN POLITICIANS WHO MAINTAIN
THAT THE REACTION TO THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MEDIATION
EFFORTS MUST BE EXPRESSED BY CUTTING AID TO ISRAEL-- BY THIS
METHOD THEY WILL ACHIEVE NO CHANGE IN ISRAEL POSITION, NO
READINESS TO GIVE UP THE EXISTING SECURITY, AND NO 'SOFTENING'
OF POSITIONS.... THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE NOT
FOR SALE IN RETURN FOR SO MANY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS; AND NO GOVT WILL RETURN TERRITORIES IN
THE SINAI, OR ANYWHERE ELSE, JUST TO OBTAIN AID. IT IS
ASSUMED THAT... KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS THIS BASIC FACT, AND
THEREFORE CORRECTED THE STATEMENT MADE BY STATE DEPT
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SPOKESMAN..."

7. PRESS ALSO REPORT THAT AS RESULT OF FEAR OF EXPECTED
CONFRONTATION WITH AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION" ISRAEL IS
MOBILIZING ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE CONGRESS AND HEADS OF
JEWISH PUBLIC TO PREVENT AN EROSION." (MAARIV, BY BEN IN
NYC) AMB DINITZ IS REPORTED AS PLAYING A KEY
ROLE IN THE EFFORTS WHICH INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH SENATORS,
REPS AND OTHERS WITH THE AIM OF "PERUSADING
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT EGYPT... CAUSED THE FAILURE
OF TALKS... FOR THE TIME BEING ISRAEL IS GRATEFUL TO
KISSINGER FOR HIS EFFORTS AND HOPES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. BUT IF THIS APPROACH IS
CHANGED, ISRAEL WILL SEEK OTHER SUPPORTERS, EVEN AMONG
THE CRITICS OF FORD AND KISSINGER..."

KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV01748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750104-0051
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750316/aaaaaodk.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS VIEWS ISRAEL-US RELATIONS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006